

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A content switch managed by a network provider for
2 ~~use in routing~~ ~~that routes~~ packets to application providers in a computer based
3 communications system ~~that uses~~ ~~using~~ instructions recorded on a computer-
4 readable storage medium, the storage medium comprising:
5 instructions for ~~sending~~ ~~that send~~ a document to a parser;
6 instructions for ~~fetching~~ ~~that fetch~~ a schema document associated with a
7 ~~packet and containing~~ ~~the packets, the schema containing~~ routing rules;
8 instructions for ~~validating~~ ~~that validate~~ the fetched ~~sent~~ document according
9 to the fetched schema;
10 instructions for ~~passing~~ ~~that pass~~ the validated document to a routing
11 instruction processor;
12 instructions for ~~interpreting~~ ~~that interpret~~ the routing rules in the schema
13 document; and
14 instructions for ~~redirecting~~ ~~that use the interpreted routing rules to redirect~~
15 ~~the~~ packets to a specified server,
16 wherein each application provider defines switching policies, and

17 wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application
18 servers are separated.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The content switch as recited in claim 1, further
2 comprising instructions ~~for parsing~~ that parse Extensible Markup Language
3 (XML)~~XML~~-based language.

1 3. (Currently Amended) A method of carrying out content switching ~~for in~~
2 application providers in a network provider of a computer-based communications
3 system that uses instructions recorded on a computer-readable storage medium, the
4 medium comprising:

5 instructions ~~for adding~~ that add parsing capabilities to a content switch;
6 instructions ~~for adding~~ that add routing information to a schema;
7 instructions that direct the content switch to fetch the schema to determine a
8 ~~routing action to be taken on packets of a flow~~ associated with a document written
9 according to the schema, wherein the determination is made by applying routing
10 rules ~~contained in~~ from the schema to elements parsed from the document; and
11 instructions that route the packets according to the determined routing
12 action,
13 wherein each application provider defines switching policies, and

14 wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application
15 servers are separated.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 3 further comprising
2 instructions that use Extensible Markup Language (XML) for using an XML-based
3 language.

1 5. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for use in routing that routes~~ traffic to
2 application providers in a network provider of a computer based communications
3 network ~~that uses using~~ instructions recorded on a computer-readable storage
4 medium, the medium comprising:

5 instructions ~~for adding that add~~ parsing capabilities to a content switch;
6 instructions ~~for adding that add~~ routing information to a schema;
7 instructions ~~for interpreting that direct the content switch to fetch the~~
8 schema, interpret routing rules in a document written according to a schema
9 associated with a packet and ~~applying apply~~ the routing rules to elements in the
10 network; and

11 instructions that determine a routing action to be performed on packets from
12 a packet flow associated with the document,
13 wherein each application provider defines switching policies, and

14 wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application
15 servers are separated.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 5, further comprising
2 instructions that parse Extensible Markup Language (XML) ~~for parsing XML-based~~
3 languages.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A computer program schema comprising instructions
2 stored on a computer-readable storage medium ~~for use in~~ a network provider of a
3 computer based communications system, the medium comprising:
4 instructions ~~for adding~~that add parsing capabilities to a content switch;
5 instructions ~~for adding~~that add routing information to a schema;
6 instructions that direct the content switch to fetch the schema to provide
7 routing actions to be taken on packets ~~belonging to a traffic flow~~ associated with a
8 document written in the language of the schema; and
9 instructions ~~for routing~~that route the packets to application providers,
10 wherein each application provider defines switching policies, and
11 wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application
12 servers are separated.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The schema as defined in claim 7, further comprising
2 instructions ~~for allowing~~that allow a trusted customer of the network provider to
3 define switching policies.